

The day after a woman asked Benjamin Franklin what sort of government we have, he answered, "A republic, if you can keep it."

Beginning on December 7 of this year, five States, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, and Connecticut, ratified it in quick succession; but other States opposed the document saying it failed to provide basic protections like freedom of religion, speech and the press.

In February of 1788 a compromise was reached under which Massachusetts and the other States would agree to ratify the document with the assurance that the amendments would be immediately proposed: The Bill of Rights.

Nearly a year later the Constitution was ratified by the required 9 out of 13 States.

Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the rule of law and the success of a great experiment, representative democracy, the core principles upon which this Nation was built, laid out in a single document: The Constitution, the oldest enduring written national Constitution in the world, the granddaddy of them all.

WE NEED A NEW TRADE POLICY

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, congratulation to President Bush on a perfect record: 32 straight months of job loss; 32 straight months of industrial manufacturing job loss and yet another record trade deficit. This is something that will be hard for anybody to match, the disastrous trade policies of this Nation.

We are hemorrhaging \$1.5 billion a day of wealth from the United States overseas, \$1 million a minute, more than 1,000 jobs a day are being exported. The President likes to talk about the wealth and benefits of exporting. Yes, there are tremendous wealth and benefits in exporting, particularly exporting jobs at the bidding of multi-national corporations who are so generous when campaign time comes around.

Yes, they are feigning concern down there at the White House because they know there is an election coming and the money cannot take care of all the problems. So they are pretending they do not know where these jobs have gone and they have decided to change the flow chart at the Commerce Department and make one politically appointed bureaucrat responsible for finding out where they went and rectifying the situation.

All we need now is a new trade policy.

AMERICAN MILITARY PROVIDES HOPE TO IRAQIS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I returned from a delegation to Iraq organized by the Committee on Armed Services' ranking member, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON).

We visited with troops from Baghdad to Al Hillah in the south to Mosul in the north, hearing directly from the heroes who have won the war and are now winning the peace in the war on terror.

These dedicated warriors have trained over 60,000 new Iraqi security forces and initiated over 6,000 community development programs for hospitals, schools, electrical transmission, business development and road improvements. Led by Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez, they are allied with over 20,000 personnel in Iraq from nations all over the world.

I was inspired by the development of democracy promoted by courageous mayors, governors, council members, and an Islamic religious university dean who is a descendent of Mohammed.

We also met with Ambassador Paul Bremer, who clearly has recruited a competent team, including Colombians George Wolfe and Chris Harvin, to successfully promote democracy.

A vital part of the war on terror is success in Iraq, and we have the right components of capable troops, local stalwarts for democracy, and a visionary Coalition Provisional Authority.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

WINNING THE PEACE

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my great concern over the Bush administration's continued failure to broker an alliance with the international community and to win the peace in Iraq.

Week after week administration officials have continued to reiterate that heightened international involvement is forthcoming. During his address on September 8, President Bush stated that we are committed to expanding international cooperation and reconstruction and security for Iraq.

But week after week, it is American taxpayers who are shouldering the financial burden of our military engagement, and it is American servicemen and women who are paying with their lives.

Since the war began on March 20, 456 service members have been killed, both in combat and noncombat operations, and more than 2,400 have been wounded, many of them very seriously. But we know now that this cannot be sustained. Just last week the Congressional Budget Office released a report that stated the Army lacks sufficient active duty forces to maintain the current 150,000 troop strength in Iraq beyond next spring.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that we internationalize the Iraqi campaign by presenting a viable U.N. resolution. Every passing week means billions of dollars and more American lives.

CELEBRATING CONSTITUTION WEEK

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, this is Constitution Week. What should we celebrate?

The purpose of America's Constitution is to establish a government based upon the rule of law, a republic.

Our Constitution was designed to secure the rights and liberties of the people by specifically defining what the Federal Government can and cannot do.

I always carry a copy of the Constitution. It is a short document. Read the Constitution and you will search in vain for most of what the Federal Government does. Activities not in the Constitution are supposed to be reserved to the States and to the people.

Estimates by the Congressional Budget Office predict that the amortized budget deficit this year will exceed \$500 billion. The actual deficit is about \$200 billion higher because under the unified budget we are spending the trust fund surpluses.

My bill, H.R. 1725, would increase the accountability of the Federal Government and encourage more Americans to vote. H.R. 1725 would move the IRS filing deadline to the first Monday in November. That is the day before elections. I believe that Americans would choose smaller government as specified in the Constitution if they filed their tax return on Monday and voted on Tuesday.

AMERICA SUFFERS WHEN BAD DECISIONS ARE MADE

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I marvel at the degree of party discipline in the majority and the degree to which they insist on the correctness of their positions. The majority does not want to admit that fighting terrorism requires sacrifice. They do not want to admit that the U.N. can actually help us. They do not want to admit that we may have to go hat in hand to other countries to ask for financial and diplomatic help. They do not want to admit that our leaders did an inadequate job of planning for the post-Saddam occupation and transition to democracy in Iraq.

They do not want to admit that exorbitant tax cuts are not stimulating the economy and, in fact, are costing Americans jobs.

Some may think it is weakness to admit mistakes, but many Americans

instead think it is arrogance and a lack of touch with reality.

I ask myself why I would even want to give the majority party advice to do better if, in fact, the electorate is likely to make them pay for their arrogance. But I must say the longer they persist in this denial, the harder it will be for America to correct their course. Maybe the majority party will suffer for their arrogance, but the U.S. will suffer more.

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TRADE MUST BE FAIR

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I was one of the Members down in Mexico this past Thursday, Friday and Saturday and Sunday at the WTO negotiations. I think a lot of Members of Congress were concerned that, again, this country might give in to what other countries wanted just for the sake of more world trade.

I would like to commend the Bush administration, and Robert Zelnick, our trade ambassador, for holding the line and not giving away things just for the sake of more world trade that eventually might have hurt our manufacturing business and our agriculture. I think no longer can we afford to have world trade just for the sake of world trade. It has got to be fair. It cannot be to the long-term disadvantage of America.

STOP DEFICIT SPENDING

(Mr. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, it has been 860 days since President Bush and the Republican party embarked on their economic plan for our country.

During that time, the national debt has increased by \$1,167,994,451,600.72. According to the Web site for the Bureau of the Public Debt at the U.S. Department of Treasury, yesterday at 4:30 p.m. eastern daylight time the Nation's outstanding debt was \$6,808,319,837,959.49. Furthermore, in fiscal year 2003, interest on our national debt or the debt tax, D-E-B-T tax, is \$304,978,878,641.11. That is through August 31.

Mr. Speaker, we must stop deficit spending and pay this debt down.

LIMITS ON MEDICAL LIABILITY

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this weekend on Saturday, Texas, my home State, passed a constitutional amendment to limit and cap noneconomic damages in medical liability lawsuits.

Texas now, as a result of passing this bold constitutional amendment, will enjoy lower liability premiums. In fact, my old insurer of record, Texas Medical Liability Trust, announced they would reduce premiums by 10 to 12 percent beginning this week.

Texas will control costs in medical care by this bold legislation and keep themselves competitive in the world market. One might ask, Mr. Speaker, do we then still need H.R. 5, the bill that was passed by this House that now languishes in the other body? I would submit that very strongly we do.

Mr. Speaker, this summer I was in Nome, Alaska, and talked to the medical staff at the hospital there, a medical staff that cannot hire an anesthesiologist because they cannot afford the liability premium. This means that doctors who practice obstetrics have to send their patients to Anchorage for cesarean sections, a 90-minute plane ride, and I am given to understand the weather in Nome, Alaska, is sometimes bad.

At Columbia University in New York, they cannot attract good medical students into their residency program. In fact, I was told by their residency director they are taking applicants that they would not have even interviewed 5 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the Senate to pick up and pass limits on medical liability.

WE NEED TARGETED TAX CUTS

(Mr. RYAN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we lost another one. WCI Steel, Incorporated, in Warren, Ohio, filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy just yesterday, one of the last major steel mills in the old "steel valley" that ran through Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. 1,740 workers are just going to hope they get a paycheck on Thursday. They have been bleeding cash for the last 3 years. Losses in 10 of its last 11 quarters produced \$163.6 million in red ink.

The ultimate irony, this happened just a few days within the anniversary of 1977 when the closing of Youngstown Sheet and Tube's Campbell Works that wiped out nearly 5,000 jobs in one day.

This has been going on since 1977. It is time for this country to adopt a manufacturing policy that is going to start creating jobs back in the good old U.S. of A, not tax cuts for the top 1 percent but targeted tax cuts to allow investment here in the United States of America.

It is not going to happen with smoke and mirrors. It is not going to happen with the press conference. We are getting our clock cleaned by China, and it is time the United States wakes up just before it is too late.

TIME TO FOCUS ON ENFORCEMENT OF TRADE AGREEMENTS

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I support free trade in principle, but I am troubled about its practice in America today. The State of Indiana has lost more manufacturing jobs than any other State in the Union. Virtually every major manufacturer in my eastern Indiana District has shed jobs since this recession began in the latter months of 2000, with one exception, and this week that company announced the elimination of 600 jobs in an entire foundry in central Indiana.

I just came from a meeting with the Secretary of Commerce, Don Evans. I commend the Secretary and the President for the appointment of a new Assistant Secretary of Manufacturing for establishing an unfair trade practices team. It is time for this administration to focus on enforcement of our trade agreements, with special emphasis on China and Mexico. Make them be as good as their word, Mr. Speaker, and it is also time to explain to American industry that shifting jobs overseas for short-term profits serves neither them, their shareholders nor their Nation in the long term.

HONORING JIM SHEEHAN

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of a man who dedicated his life to public service and once sought to become a Member of this House as well. Mr. Speaker, the people of Bergen County and the rest of New Jersey lost a dedicated public servant, a devoted father and husband and family man and a friend of mine when Jim Sheehan lost his battle to cancer.

Mr. Sheehan spent the majority of his career in public service. He worked for a while for the people of Bergen County for a period of time. In 1976 and 1978 he was the Mayor of Wyckoff, and after that he became a freeholder, from 1991 to 2002, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Bergen County.

After serving as freeholder for the county, he took on the very difficult task of being the chairman of the Republican party in Bergen County. Bergen is the last largest Republican organization in the State of New Jersey, and though he worked very hard and tirelessly strengthening the party of Lincoln, he did so while remaining friends and having the respect of people on both sides of the aisle.

So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the 5th Congressional District, particularly the folks over in Bergen County, I offer my prayers and condolences to the friends and family of Jim Sheehan.